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FROM: LONDON

TO: Secretary of State

NO: 2628, NOVEMBER 13, 3 PM

SENT DEPT 2628, RPTD INFO PARIS 342, BONN 100, MOSCOW 59.

PARIS FOR EMBASSY AND USRO

FONOFF ADVISES UK REPRESENTATIVE BERLIN HAS REPORTED FOLLOWING
VIEWS:

AFTER NOTING THAT GROTEWOHL HAS WATERED DOWN KHRUSHCHEV'S
THREATS, UK REPRESENTATIVE SAYS SEEMS NO QUESTION AT ALL
AT PRESENT OF ANY INTERFERENCE WITH GERMAN COMMUNICATION
BETWEEN WEST BERLIN AND WEST GERMANY. NEW BLOCKADE NOT IN
PROSPECT. GROTEWOHL SPEECH STRENGTHENED IMPRESSION THAT
IMMEDIATE SOVIET WITHDRAWAL FROM RESPONSIBILITIES TOWARD
ALLIES IN BERLIN UNLIKELY. UK REPRESENTATIVE BELIEVES
THERE IS STILL SOME "PLAY" IN SITUATION AND THAT RUSSIANS
AND GDR WILL WAIT TO TEST WESTERN REACTIONS AND PERHAPS
POSSIBILITIES OF DRAWING WEST INTO DISCUSSION OF GERMAN
QUESTION WITH GDR PARTICIPATION OR TO ATTEND SUMMIT
CONFERENCE IN COMING MONTHS, BEFORE DECIDING HOW TO PROCEED.
SOME SUCH TOKEN STEP AS FORMAL CLOSURE OF SOVIET MILITARY
HEADQUARTERS IN EAST BERLIN MAY BE TAKEN SOON BUT WOULD
EXPECT SOVIETS TO DEVISE MEANS OF MAINTAINING CONTACT WITH
ALLIES IN BERLIN EVEN IF THIS DID HAPPEN. HOWEVER,
UK REPRESENTATIVE BERLIN DOES NOT BELIEVE RUSSIANS WILL
CONTINUE TO LIVE UP TO PRESENT RESPONSIBILITIES INDEFINITELY.

WHITNEY

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